

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In Figure 3A of the drawings, the lead line for the numeral 510 has been extended, in Figure 4A of the drawings, the lead line for the numeral 610 has been extended, and in Figure 5A of the drawings, the lead line for the numeral 710 has been extended. Also, in Figure 11 of the drawings in the block 10 the words "MEN FOR" have been deleted. Submitted concurrently herewith is a Letter to the Office Draftsperson submitting replacement drawing sheets for Figures 3A, 4A, 5A and 11 including the above identified corrections. Entry of these drawing corrections is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated August 9, 2005 (Paper No. 20050805). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Claim for Priority

With the filing of the above- identified application on February 27, 2002, Applicants claimed the priority date of December 10, 2001, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese Patent Application 2001-375318, under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and Applicants filed the certified copy of this priority document on March 27, 2002. Acknowledgement of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of the certified copy of the corresponding priority document are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 12 through 19 are currently pending in the above-identified application. Claim 19 has been previously withdrawn from consideration. Also, Claims 1 through 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter. Further, Claims 12, 13 and 19 are being amended to correct formal errors, place the claims in better form and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Entry of the amendments to Claims 12, 13 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Also, as to non-elected Claim 19, which has been withdrawn from consideration, Applicants reserve the right to file divisional application(s) on the subject matter directed to Claim 19.

Additional Amendments

The Specification and the Abstract of the Disclosure have been amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention. Entry of the amendments to the Specification and to the Abstract of the Disclosure is respectfully requested.

In Figure 3A of the drawings, the lead line for the numeral 510 has been extended, in Figure 4A of the drawings, the lead line for the numeral 610 has been extended, and in Figure 5A

of the drawings, the lead line for the numeral 710 has been extended. Also, in Figure 11 of the drawings in the block 10 the words "MEN FOR" have been deleted. Entry of these drawing corrections is respectfully requested.

Formal Objections/Rejections

In Claim 12, the Office Action noted that, in lines 3 and 4, the phrase "the first semiconductor substrate" should be changed to "the third semiconductor substrate". In response Claim 12 has been amended and includes an amendment addressing this correction. Withdrawal of the objection to Claim 12 is respectfully requested.

Also, the Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to in view of its length. In response, attached to this response is a Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure which addresses this objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1 through 4 and 9 through 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0109897 to Mirshekar-Syahkal et al., hereinafter the Mirshekar-Syahkal '897 application.

Claims 5 through 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Mirshekar-Syahkal '897 application in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,057,954 to Parayanthal et al., hereinafter the Parayanthal '954 patent.

In response, Claims 1 through 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Therefore, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 1 through 11 is respectfully requested.

Also, the Office Action stated that Claim 12 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action, page 5)

In response, "objected to" Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form, substantially including the recitations of Claims 1 and 2.

Further, the Office Action stated that Claims 13 through 18 were allowed. (Office Action, Page 5).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 12 through 18 are in condition for

allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claim 12, confirmation of the allowability of Claims 13 through 18, and consideration of withdrawn Claim 19, are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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